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of the State Government. A scheme formulated by the Government of India for the purpose is in operation and the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society are the agents of the Government of India in the matter. The scheme has been in progress since February 1954.

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Sir, I find from the newspapers that handloom goods worth Rs. 76 lakhs have been ordered in America. So, have this Government represented to the Government of India to open an emporium in America?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am sorry I do not have the details as to what is being done with reference to the demand for our handloom cloth in America. Let the hon. Member put a separate question.

Sri A. M. RATHNASWAMY : Sir, certain officers were deputed by our Government to visit certain foreign markets. May I know what their reactions are after visiting those countries in regard to the sale of handloom cloth and whether there is any good prospect of capturing foreign markets?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member that there is demand for our handloom cloth in other countries. Regarding other details, I would like to have notice.

Sri S. RAMALINGAM : *சமீபத்தில் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் வெளி நாடுகளில் சுற்றுப்பிரயாணம் செய்தபொழுது அங்கு நமது கைத்தறித் துணியை விற்பனை செய்வதற்கும், அதற்குத் தகுந்த மார்க்கட் கண்டு பிடிப்பதற்கும் வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கை எடுத்தார்களா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.*

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : *இது விஷயமாக மத்திய சர்க்காரின் சார்பாக ஒரு உத்தியோகஸ்தர் வெளி நாடுகளுக்கு சமீபத்தில் போயிருக்கிறார். நான் என்னுடைய சுற்றுப்பிரயாணத்தின் பொழுது இதுபற்றி கவனிக்கவில்லை. கவனிக்கக்கூடிய சந்தர்ப்பமும் இல்லை.*

Renovation of temples

* 71 *Q.*—Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any improvement and repairs are being done to the ancient temples;

(*b*) whether the Commissioner for Religious Endowments has ever visited the historic temple at Singavaram, Gingee taluk; and

(*c*) the steps taken to improve and repair the Sri Ranganathar temple at Singavaram?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is presumed that the reference is to the Sri Ranganathar temple at Singavaram. The Commissioner had visited this temple on 1st December 1955.

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(*c*) None, because of want of funds. Action is being taken to appoint non-hereditary trustees for the temple who are expected to see to the repairs and improvements.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : It would be a welcome feature if proper repairs are effected to the ancient temples but on the other hand most of the non-well-informed trustees spoil the ancient sculptural achievements by white-washing and colour-washing sculptures. Therefore, will the Hon. Minister issue orders that these trustees or the men in power should not spoil those idols and sculptures?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The hon. Member is always fond of indulging in vague allegations. I request him to suggest to me a concrete example where I could take action. Further, I do not think that the hon. Member's question arises out of this particular question which relate to temples in the Gingee taluk.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : May I draw the pointed attention of the Hon. Minister to the desirability of effecting repairs to this temple because that is an historic temple where the God is supposed to be powerful. Sir, when Raja Desinghu wanted to battle with the Nawab of Carnatic, he asked for permission from this God who refused and still when Raja Desinghu proceeded with his plan, the God was supposed to have cursed him. Thereafter when he went to battle, he was defeated and killed at the hands of the Nawab of Carnatic. So, will the Government take a lesson from it and improve this temple? They may also seek advice from this God regarding any difficult problem that they have to face.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : There are equally important temples in other places also. I agree that it may be a historical one but we have got to see that " Tirupani " is performed and if the non-hereditary trustees are appointed, I think the whole problem will solve itself.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR : There are many temples in the State which are in a state of disrepair and I understand that the Government have taken up only certain temples for immediate repairs. Will the Hon. Minister tell us the basis on which only selected temples are taken up for repairs and the priority in which they are taken up?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Only those ancient temples about which hymns were sung by Nayanars and Alwars are being taken up now. Funds do not permit at present to take up some more temples. If funds are available, the Government will give priority to the temples which require immediate repairs

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Sir, before the attainment of independence for our country, the foreigners were not interested in the renovation of the old historia temples. Also in

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Malabar when Tippu was in power, so many important temples were demolished and some of them are even now in a dilapidated condition. For instance, the Kuruvannil temple in the Narath village, the Thaliyil temple in Andur village and the Chalari temple in Cheleri village require immediate repairs. So, will the Government be pleased to conduct an enquiry into the matter and see whether any of them are worth renovation?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The original question relates to a temple in the Gingee taluk. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I will answer it.

SRI A. M. RATHNASWAMY : I understand that there are a large number of Harijan temples which require renovation since they are in a dilapidated condition but they have no income available. May I know whether any applications have been made by those who have temples in the Harijan slums and if so, whether any assistance has been given to those temples for renovation?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : There is no difference between Harijan temples and other temples. Temples are temples and we do not differentiate between temples in the Harijan quarters and the temples in other places. As I said, while attention will be paid in due course to those temples which are situated in the slum areas, immediate attention is being paid to such of the temples about which songs were sung by Nayanars and Alwars. So, just now it is not possible for the Government, with the limited resources, to spend on repairs of all temples. We have got a programme and we will carry it out according to schedule. We have also got to see that the provisions of the concerned Act are strictly followed.

9-30 a.m. SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, the Government and the trustees have no time except to figure in Courts as parties in writ petitions and have no time to carry out improvements and repairs to temples. May I know what effective steps the Government propose to take to avoid such a state of affairs?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : In all cases relating to all departments, officers are engaged in Court work and I do not know why this remark is directed against this department only.

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Even though there is a provision to divert the surplus funds of big temples for renovating small temples, the Government are not in a position to compel the trustees of big temples to divert the surplus funds of the temples under their charge for purposes of renovation of smaller temples. Will the Government come forward with a comprehensive legislation giving them powers to compel the trustees of big temples to divert their surplus funds for purposes of renovation of small temples?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Owing to the recent decision of the High Court on the matter, we cannot divert. The Government have been forbidden from doing so.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : In view of the fact that our State Government is a secular one and in view of the fact that our Government have got the funds of all the temples in the State, is it fair on the part of the Government to discriminate between temples of Alwars and Nayanmars and ordinary temples and give priority to the former in respect of effectiving improvements and carrying out repairs? May I also know whether it is not necessary that as and when temples need repair it should be carried out immediately?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : It is not a question of taking all the temples for carrying out repairs. With the limited finances that are at the disposal of the Government for this purpose of carrying out repairs, we have got only to select a few temples. We cannot divert the surplus funds of big temples for work connected with smaller temples because the High Court has considered the provision relating to such transfers as 'invalid'. Therefore, with the limited funds we have at our disposal, we have to draw a list of priority and there is no particular prejudice against any particular temple.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, on a matter of personal explanation. While answering my question the Hon. Minister was pleased to say that I am making only vague or general allegations. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the first part of the question which deals with only a general matter. Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that in temples built by the Pallava Dynasty in Conjeevaram. Tirukazukundram and Mahabalipuram most of the sculptural works for which those temples are very famous are being spoiled by the respective trustees of those temples or by some others in power by colour-washing or white-washing with the result that after some years of colour-washing or white-washing the fineness of the stone-cuttings in those temples is being lost. In view of the fact that such a wrong method is being pursued by the trustees, will the Government even if they cannot better these sculptural or architectural work in those temples, at least issue instructions to see that these works are not spoiled by white-washing or colour-washing?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : White-washing wherever it is necessary without spoiling the sculptural or architectural beauty of the temples could have been undertaken by those in charge of the temples with the help of temple funds or by private individuals who are very much interested in the improvement of temples. But the Government are taking particular care to see that the ancient monuments, sculptural and architectural beauties which are really intended to be preserved are being maintained.